14. Tejatola, Unemployed Educated Co-operative Society Ltd., Katihar.

15. Larkania Tola Shramik Sahayog Samiti Ltd.

16. Railway Patra Patrika Sahayog Seva Samiti, Katihar.

17. Larkania Tola Educated Unemployed Co-operative Society Ltd., Katihar.

18. Katihar Canteen Co-operative Society Ltd., Katihar.

19. The Railway Bookstall Workers Vendors Co-operative Society Ltd. Khurda Road, S.E. Railway.

20. M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co. Pv. Ltd.

21. M/s. Naresh Kumar Indu

22. Sukamal Bookstall, Katihar.

Additional Platforms for Passengers at New Delhi Station

869. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for construction of more passenger platforms shortly to avoid congestion at New Delhi Railway Station; and

(b) if so, by when the work is likely to commence and probable date of completion?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is difficult to indicate the probable date of completion, as it is dependent on shifting of goods facilities from New Delhi to Holambi Kalan and part of the coach maintenance facilities to Hazrat Nizamuddin which, in turn, are dependent on the availability of resources.

Allotment of Book-stalls on Stations

870. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 4277 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st August, 1988 and state:

(a) what are the dates of starting the work of Book-stalls at Saharanpur, Rajpura and Pathankot stations who were allotted the contract after proper verification and as per existing procedure;

(b) whether the competent authority of Northern Railway executed agreements with association/Partnership of unemployed Graduates who were allotted book-stalls as referred to in the answer to above questions; and

(c) if so, what are the date of execution thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The dates of starting the work of bookstalls at Saharanpur, Rajpura, and Pathankot are as under:

Saharanpur—05.9.1988

Rajpura—10.9.1988

Pathankot—05.9.1988.

(b) and (c) The dates of execution of bookstall agreements at Saharanpur and Pathankot are as under:

Saharanpur—06.2.1989

Pathankot—12.10.1988.

Agreement in respect of bookstall contract at Rajpura has not yet been executed.

Gangmen performing the duties of Establishment Clerks

871. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Gangmen have been performing the

duties of Establishment Clerks in Dehra Dun Area, Roorkee, Hardwar in P.W.WI office/IOD office|Engineering Office Roorkee etc.;

(b) if so, what are their details and since when they have been doing the job of clerks; and

(c) whether they have been paid any incentives for doing the job of higher responsibility and if so, whether these posts can be upgraded/converted into clerical grades and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The information as on 1.5.89 is being collected from Northern Railway and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Closing down of Nuclear Reactors by Russia

872. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA KANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of President Gorbachov of Soviet Russia from London, announcing Soviet Government's intention to stop production of weapon type uranium and closing down of three nuclear reactors in Russia;

(b) if so, what is Government's information about the Soviet President's pronouncement; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto in the context of prospects of world peace?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) President Gorbachov has announced the Soviet Union's intention to cease production of enriched weapon grade uranium from this year. He has also stated that in addition to the reactor for the production of weapon grade plutonium shut down in 1987, the Soviet Union plans to shut down two other such reactors in 1989 and 1990 without commissioning new units to replace them.

(c) The Governmen have welcomed Preident Gorbachov's announcement. A copy of the statement made by the Official Spokesman on April 11, 1989, is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Government welcomes President Gorbachov's announcement in London on the 7th April, 1989, of the decision of the Soviet Union to cease the production, from this year, of enriched weapon-grade uranium. This is a major advance towards halting the nuclear arms race. The qualitative significance of this decision goes much beyond the quantities involved.

We hope that the Soviet initiative would lead to all the nuclear weapon states agreeing to a complete cut-off in the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes. India has for long advocated the cessation of the production of weapon-grade fissionable material by all the nuclear weapon States as constituting an important step towards halting the nuclear arms race. We have piloted several resolutions on the subject in the UN General Assembly and have included it as an integral part of our three-phase Action Plan for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

It is a matter of particular satisfaction to us that in his speech in London the leader of one of the most important nuclear weapon States has reiterated the need to do away with the doctrine of nuclear deterrence and to completely eliminate nuclear weapons, the objectives that constitute the very core of India's disarmament policy, duly reflected in the Action Plan.